

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tilt steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
 - a lower steering shaft of which low end being mounted with a steering gear;
 - an upper steering shaft of which top end being mounted with a steering wheel;
 - a universal joint that joints a top end of the lower steering shaft with a low end of the upper steering shaft;
 - a lower column member fixed to a vehicle body to support the lower steering shaft to be pivotable;
 - an upper column member that supports the upper steering shaft to be pivotable;
 - and
 - a tilt lock mechanism that tilt-locks the upper column member to the lower column member, wherein the top end side of the upper column member is closed, the tilt lock mechanism comprising:
 - a fixed gear attached to the lower column member;
 - a movable gear attached to a top end side of the upper column member in such a manner to be pivotable;
 - slots perforated on both sides (left and right) of the upper column member; and
 - a wedge member disposed at the slots to tooth-lock the movable gear to the

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fixed gear by pressing the movable gear,

wherein the wedge member is configured to pivotally move, and a hook piece extending from the wedge member is configured to directly engage the movable gear.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein ~~[[a]]~~ the hook piece mounted on extending from the wedge member, ~~to encompass~~ encompasses a lower end side of the movable gear.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the wedge member comprises:

~~a wedge piece mounted on the hook piece;~~

a groove formed on a rear surface of the wedge piece;

a plate disposed at the slot; and

a protrusion formed on a front surface of the plate to be fit in the groove.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the protrusion is loosely received in the groove.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the wedge piece is attached to the plate in such a manner to be able to rotate back and forth.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a rear

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end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

11. (New) A tilt steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:

a lower steering shaft of which low end being mounted with a steering gear;

an upper steering shaft of which top end being mounted with a steering wheel;

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a universal joint that joints a top end of the lower steering shaft with a low end of the upper steering shaft;

a lower column member fixed to a vehicle body to support the lower steering shaft to be pivotable;

an upper column member that supports the upper steering shaft to be pivotable;
and

a tilt lock mechanism that tilt-locks the upper column member to the lower column member, wherein the top end side of the upper column member is closed, the tilt lock mechanism comprising:

a fixed gear attached to the lower column member;

a movable gear attached to a top end side of the upper column member in such a manner to be pivotable;

slots perforated on both sides (left and right) of the upper column member;

a wedge member disposed at the slots to tooth-lock the movable gear to the fixed gear by pressing the movable gear;

wherein the wedge member comprises:

a wedge piece mounted on the hook piece;

a groove formed on a rear surface of the wedge piece;

a plate disposed at the slot; and

a protrusion formed on a front surface of the plate to be fit in the groove; and

wherein a hook piece extends from the wedge member to encompass a lower end side of the movable gear.

12. (New) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the protrusion is loosely received in the groove.

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the wedge piece is attached to the plate in such a manner to be able to rotate back and forth.

14. (New) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

15. (New) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a rear end side of the upper column member on which the tilt lock mechanism is mounted is further closed.